Alls well.

Poplar St. Jan 1. 1849.

Dear Caroline 'The longest day comes to the vesper hour.' It finished. The Fair is over! The receipts are $3151.32. That is [illegible] Minute, before the cloth has been sold, & sundry little debts paid, &c which may make it a little more. We are living & but just living. We have had so hard & I may say dangerous a [illegible] that we have unanimously resolved that we would never hold another. I mean under those circumstances. No house of our [illegible] Anne E's so short handed. I came in town almost a fortnight before the Fair & staid at Henrietta's. You know how far that is, & how much running there was to do. I made all the use of omnibusses [illegible] & [illegible] a carriage occasionally but I could not hire one all the time. The Glasgow Edinburgh, Perth, Dublin & Leeds boxes arrived the [illegible] Dec. They were got directly thro' the Custom House by old Mr May who has behaved like an angel throughout. But they could not be carried to Faneuil Hall because that was to be used for a young men's [illegible] Ball. They could be carried there the Thursday before the Fair which would give us time to mark them, but the advertisements for the Liberator must be written before that. So dear Bro. May & I finally settled that the boxes should all be carried to his [illegible] in State St., & on Sunday afternoon, as the clerks would all be there on a week day, Emma & I should meet him & his wife at the porch of the Old South, & from there proceed to the shop & look them over sufficiently to write the notice. So Emma came in from Brookline, where she & Lucia were, & Sunday came. The rain fell pretty violently when we started but we found Sam & his wife in the porch both in childishly high spirits at the thoughts of such a scrape, for old May knew nothing of all this. We tapped at the door & Fred May, the other conspirator replied & we were admitted. We staid the whole of afternoon & looked over all the boxes. When we came away about dark it was pouring like a flood. But we had to foot it, for of course, I could not ask Fred May of a Sunday afternoon to send a carriage to his father's store, to take away two ladies. I was as unwell as I could be, & when Emma & I reached Poplar St. gowns, petticoats drawers, every thing had to come off. Remarkably we did not take cold. But I was so spent & worn out that it was the finish [illegible]. I was so worn out the next day when Deborah came in town that she was frightened to death almost. I did not look all fagged out & wispy, but had assumed the oddest appearance of [illegible] & [illegible]; my eyes as big as saucers, & black streaks under them. I was so weak I could scarcely stand, could eat nothing, & could hardly go to sleep at all & my mind & all my mental powers in the most active & excited state. The quickness of my thinking powers was so increased that I really felt afraid I might be going to have an attack of hysteria. You need not think

I want to send a special message to Mary. Give all our loves and tell her that we felt the need of her most emphatically [illegible]

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that all this time I had not my wits perfectly about me but what with much walking & constant exertion & being very unwell I suppose my whole nervous system was greatly deranged. The moment Deborah arrived I gave up all I could. It was on Tuesday 12th that I wrote to you, & tho' I was very miserable when I wrote, I thought it best to say to say nothing about it. The next morning came Tom Lovel to tell me that Mrs Ford was dead, had requested that either Wendell or Mr May should speak at her funeral & that Mr Ford wished me to see about it. Poor Mrs F. suffered a great deal at the last, but preserved her firmness & calmness. I had not intended to go at, but so conjured I went over with Lovel to the office & it was arranged that Mr May & I should go down on Thursday as far as Quincy and there a wagon should be waiting to take us over to old Spain. I felt that I owed this to poor dear Mrs Ford. I believe I wrote you that I went to see her before I left Weymouth & we took a tender leave of each other. Thursday was the day appointed at Faneuil Hall for the marking to begin so it was very inconvenient both for Bro May & myself to be gone, but I believed it a superior duty for us both to go. It was a very immense funeral. Out of compliment to her father & mother who are stringent Methodists, a Mr Smith from Back River made the prayer. A prayer hymn that one or two of Mr Emery's church (from which you know she was excommunicated) had selected was sung (beginning "Why should our tears in sorrow fall, When God recalls his own." Mr May then made a long & most excellent address in which he declared the whole counsel. Very many of the church must have been present but I suppose they bore it as well as they could. Both Albert & his children behaved beautifully. They were dressed in deep mourning, & the whole house had the same nice, cared for look that Mrs Ford herself used to give it. Many of the friends were down from the Landing. Aunt M. came with the Richards; Ann & Henry walked. Mr May & I drank tea, we dined at the Lovels. When I reached Poplar St at night, I found that L. & E. had arrived to take up their abode in town. They had marked several boxes at the Hall. The people present were Mrs Loring Anne & Kiddy, Mrs May the younger & Deborah. L. & E. these carried their dinner & staid at the Hall all day. The next day it was pouring of rain, but we all went up. The same people with the addition of Edmund who came & helped very well. Here our first trouble began. Mrs May fought every step about the marking. She struggled to give away every thing & would privately catch up a thing & mark it without saying a word. We resisted & struggled & Mrs Loring did very well, but it is hard to fight over every article. The Glasgow

things were very beautiful by themselves valued at £.169-1-10
There was not as many as some years, but very handsome.
Edinburgh also very handsome. Perth did very well indeed.
There was little or no trash. Leeds was very beautiful. Splendid Hon
iton lace. Beautiful table covers - Every bright coloured thing, Mrs
May resolved should be given away, & as there was poor Sam
starving himself to death, we hated to fright her. A most beauti
ful ~~[illegible]~~ apron black satin with dark blue satin most curiously
let in to the front part & worth $6. Mrs M. continued to mark
$2. Deborah met with it, & all in a hurry altered it to $4. Miss
Russel carried it home to her sister Marian who snapped at it
as the greatest bargain she ever saw, Mrs R. bemoaning herself
that she had not put it up to $6 herself. This is a specimen.
The Dublin things were not much. There were beautiful
shawls from Kirkcaldy & £28 worth from E. Pease. Sarah Cogan sent
pretty things & so did the Hildsticks, tho' not so many as before.
At night we were home wearied enough the walking most
dreadful - That night I ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~, ~~[illegible]~~ I was ~~going~~ to ~~[illegible]~~ ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~, for
I thought I had done enough ~~[illegible]~~. I poured down
~~[illegible]~~ blindfold & ~~[illegible]~~ ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~, but had such
a head ache & ~~[illegible]~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ that all the next
day I could not sit up a minute. That evening Deborah & I
had been invited to go with Mr Chandler & Henrietta
to hear Anna Bishop. Lucia went in my place & they
had a good time. All day Sunday & Monday I was as careful
of myself as if so much cracked china. But I could not eat
at all. Any thing but tea & cracker brought on the sickness &
dizziness. Meantime all the country friends had done wonders
in the way of green. Plenty was brought. Farmer Jenkins, Stone
ham & Reading came gloriously up to the work. The Welling
tons came in town all four & no dogs could work harder.
A dear Hayward two of Salem did every thing. Sayles was very
good & Levi amused. Tuesday noon, the hall was nearly ready
In a much greater state of forwardness than any previous year.
I took a carriage & went over; the Cork box which arrived
in a later Steamer and the Bridgewater box which came
via N.Y. were in the Refreshment room being marked.
Mesdames May G. Russel & L. Loring were there marking.
all our folks was of course doing a million of things in the
hall. I sat down & tried to help but it was dread ful cold there;

& I felt I could not stand it that I had best go back and spea
the Glasgow Table. I felt so ill & we seemed so short handed that
after saying what I could, I had to abandon the things to their
fate. Mrs Russell & Louisa wished to do just right but Mrs Sam
seized the long reins & went thundering down the hill. It was no
use to say any thing to her, for of good set purpose she was resolved
to have her way & we all felt desirous with Sam laying down
as it were his life not to fight. Well the tables were all
arranged & every thing worked beautifully. Mrs Smith came in
full of life & mischief. The Lorings arrived. Nancy Sampson. Nancy
brought a bonnet of her own making. No N. B. people were
in any capacity save poor Franklin who was up for one day. Nancy
and Maria & Sarah staid at Mrs Parks's. I only sent Nancy there
first but as Mrs P. asked for more I sent the others. Well, the
Fair morning dawned. I had been very poorly all night.
nevertheless I rose & dressed & rode to the Hall but had
hardly got there when I was taken so poorly (the same old
complaint) & was so cold & sick at the stomach that I could
not stay a minute longer. I delivered up the table to Mrs
George Russell & Mrs May & got into the first carriage
that could be procured & rode home. I went to bed & was
not up again that day. Thursday, I was better, but as the
least exertion or even taking any thing appeared to hurt me
I staid at home the two next days. Saturday morning
I ventured over & sold & worked all day & stood it pretty
well. Sunday, of course I rested. Monday, I went again
& worked hard all day, was poorly again at night & had
to stay at home all day Tuesday. The last 4 days I was
able to stand to it for the selling hour, albeit the marking
of the Bristol box which was not got out of the
Custom House till the last part of the Fair nearly
upset me again. I did nothing at all about clearing
up. Deborah has had the whole brunt of that. Indeed
she has had the brunt of a great deal. Almost all
the ordering & overlooking which I was absent so much
that I could hardly get the hang of. The L. E. Mrs
Loring, Kiddy, Lucretia & Susan, Mary, Taylor & Jacobs were
at work at the Hall all day Sunday & all but Mrs Loring
& Kiddy have been there to day. And all is cleared up &
settled. It is probable I think that the expenses will be less
than they were last year. The advertising will be only $40.
& I dare say the duties will be rather less. Now I will explain
as well as I can, the most prominent reason why we took

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less than last year. First the non arrival of the [illegible] boxes was a great injury. Jan 1849 I thought it quite right to publish Maria's account of them in the Liberator, tho' from the first I had little hope of their arrival. But afterwards when I saw by the Herald that the [illegible] did not arrive till 2 days later than you supposed, I gave it up entirely. But the people behaved extremely well about it, nobody saying an ugly thing, but all politely exclaiming "I am sure you have done all you could" & lots of people particularly with purses kept back their money, buying [illegible] hoped the things [illegible] would arrive. 2nd the Fair never had such weather since we were a Fair it snowed or rained two thirds of the time & on the pleasant days the walking was bad. We had really only two good days in all & on both those days we did well. 3rd Amy's sickness was of course a great trial. [illegible] not only was my help lost but it took [illegible] people strength to keep the general [illegible] of the [illegible] & she could not see a thing. In all respects as regards help we were terribly short handed, for half the persons were [illegible] Madam May & Mary Robbins at my table behaved beautifully & laid themselves perfectly unselfish on the altar, but ~~Miss Mary~~ is what ~~she~~ ~~all~~ Lucia shall write of the book table herself. At the [illegible] which you will remember [illegible] Mrs Loring with [illegible] & part of [illegible]. She & [illegible] did pretty well, but so many of the things were so badly marked that we must have lost a good deal. I suppose Miss Tufts took her full swing, & as Miss Rogers had the [illegible] things of last year [illegible] knew what she did. I don't accuse her but still there was in the hall an amount of irresponsible power that would make your hair stand on end. It is a fact that people are almost giving away things in the shops & that was a reason for lowering the prices a little but so much [illegible] I cannot but think that if you [illegible] give away I never saw the [illegible] to know it. But Louisa [illegible] behaved well enough however & we all think [illegible] courting her. At the Edinburgh table [illegible] ~~Mary~~ did not even [illegible]. I hated the very sight of her. She was thoroughly occupied by [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ where she [illegible] & she cared nothing for the table & lost her common sense & [illegible] spent [illegible] who will I hope get back safe to A. B. [illegible] never come again. She should always have Daniel at her elbow. Miss [illegible] was at that little [illegible] but [illegible] she had been satisfied & behaved very well. Mrs Johnson & Caroline [illegible] I can't [illegible] either of them but I don't know [illegible] bargains that they gave any body but themselves [illegible] would wear an elegant [illegible] that she had bought at the Fair, for

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a week, no ten days & then Dolly come & pick out an elegant little shawl & say she believed she would change it & put the cape back. Charlotte B and friend came & worked & behaved like a lady. The Southwicks were there less than & even good little Sarah on placing herself at one of the best tables, said she did not think there were as any thing there that any body would wish to buy. The Dedham Allens behaved sweetly. Not a soul in Dedham would help them & they got up the table all themselves. Mrs Wyman was there & did well & a Miss Chase of Worcester behaved well. The Halls came & brought a nice table & behaved very well too. Dolly came with 22 loaves of nice cake & 30 mince pies. There was a good refreshment table & the girls did well. I can't say I admire Brown Hall music. She (Mrs B) was there too, & I dont know that they gave away things; I dont know but they did. But I cannot enumerate all. I know the things were amazingly cleared off. tho' there is enough for a good Worcester Fair which they propose to hold in May. Much fewer people were in, so perhaps the things were fairly sold & the money made on them, as really much less comprehend was taken at the door. Lots of the folks that always come stayed away, but a good many came who dont usually come. Here Lucia takes the pen, my hand so lame I can hardly hold it. There was the most friendly feelings shown by all sorts of people, I will enumerate some of the new people that came, In the first place Mary Robbins got her friends completely under, the first day of the fair down came Mrs Annie and her daughter and bought for themselves and the Springs well on to $20 worth. Aunt Margaret bought $4 and at last stole away from her family and came to the Hall herself, she wished Maria to know particularly that she had been. The last day of the fair my astonishment was great to see a fat gentleman come in whom I thought to be Dr Robbins I summoned Mary from the refreshment room and told her my suspicions she thought I might be mistaken, for she had begged him to come to the Hall every morning but he had always declined, but there was no denying of him there he was at the book table and Emma dealing with him he brought Mr Swain of New Bedford with him, Mary was most out of her senses. She made every Weston of us all pass before him. The Dr was very sweet and tender, I had never heard him speak before. he behaved well spoke affectionately of Maria, though I suppose her absence made it easy for him to come, and bought $12 worth. Mrs Torry of Summer St and her children came and bought well and behaved well. Mrs Borland, Mrs J. K Mills. Mrs Rollins, Mrs Tudor.

I will write all about the Bell day as it comes in my next. I dont see the
that it [illegible] spoke [illegible] write as well [illegible]
Fair & was very sweet [illegible] there [illegible] been a good deal of [illegible]
expressed [illegible] Mrs Young is [illegible] breaking up [illegible]
put [illegible] the Fair [illegible] sent [illegible] Cornelia [illegible] to sell papers [illegible]
& where [illegible] I can no more [illegible] come [illegible] to the [illegible]
[illegible] I [illegible] tomorrow. We are hoping to hear [illegible]
[illegible] Bell [illegible] Dear [illegible] Emma how [illegible]
[illegible] Warren is [illegible] Letter [illegible]
[illegible] We spoke [illegible] write more at [illegible]

he did not have to my apprehension nearly as handsome a book table as we had last year, but nobody seemed to find it out. Murdo canton china saved us from disgrace it was a feature and sold well, and was the means of selling the other things. our hearts were very much down when we came to see how few curious and pretty things we had, but we kept dark, said nothing about it, put a good face on it, and actually made more by nearly a hundred dollars than we did last year. we marked our own things that is Emma and I, put on our own prices and got the money, but being obliged to do this we could not of course help very much in marking the things for the other tables. Richard Webbs paper was exquisite, and sold beautifully he sent portfolio's, blotting books, drawing books, little memorandum books, paper cardcases, and a great many of them, and they all sold. We made over $800. The Lorings have done every thing for us, and been very kind appeared to have deepest compassion for us, and have tried to save us in every way they could. Anna has given to Emma for a New Years gift a very pretty pin turquoises and pearls. She has given me a beautiful ring a large pink topaz set round with pearls. tell this to Lizzy, Henry and Handy. The richest things kept happening all the time of the fair, that I suppose you will never know unless you get it from Emma. Among many other incidents the thing that amused me the most, and made me fit to roll on the floor was Miss Tufts raffle of a bedquilt which strange to say was drawn, by, who do you think? Mrs Dr Gregg! During the fair a dreadful thing happened. George B Emerson's son shot himself, it is said that he has been in a melancholy way for some time, he blew his brains out in his own chamber.

Jan 2. We had speaking the last 6 nights, but it was all as poor as it could be, save the first evening when W L G & Willy Bowditch spoke. Wendell was too sick with an influenza to speak tho' he managed to be out part of the time. We had one disagreeable thing about it. May & I had settled as there was rather a dearth of speakers to ask J. F. Clarke. He did & Clarke accepted. In the mean time the Female Emancipation Soc. got up a Free Soil Tea party, trying to mix themselves all up with that set of people, & Clarke spoke there. After that I did not wish him to speak for us, & gave May some advice whereby by the introduction of other speakers, he might avoid him. I could have managed May well enough, but his wife who seems to be a personal friend of Clarkes was so resolute, & close at May's ear working him up that I could do nothing without very much hurting May's feelings who had most laid down his life for the Fair & having a dead out break with he. I saw at once that I was a fool to have asked him at all, but after he was asked I feared an outbreak would do harm, as Louisa L's feelings would have been hurt & some others, so I let it go on, telling May that I did not wish it, but that if he chose to take the responsibility I would not say he should not. Clarke exchanged words with none of us. After Abby K. & Channing had spoken he made a poor twaddling little speech. I told May if he wished to present Clarke with a Bell by all means to do so, that I did not wish to myself, but he could. May said that Clarke had never heard of the Balls or their capers. I told him I did not suppose he had, but my mind revolted from knowing any thing to say to a man who had just been speaking for them, & that I owned lay he did know about New org. However nobody knew any thing of our struggle, for so low is public feeling that I dare say nobody thought of the dignity of the occasion. Parker could not speak for some reason or other. H. C. Wright and Pillsbury spoke & Abby Kelley & Lucy Stone. – Now give your serious consideration – I do not see that with Emma gone we could hold a fair without risk of our lives. I long too to stop it to be up with the foes, & friends too. Would it not be well to propose to Glasgow or Edinburgh to hold the next year's Fair there & we to send them things. I cannot & dare not take the lead again, & I should be frightened to death alone here struggling alone. I have written principally about my own illness but I wish you had seen the nights passed by all the rest of the family. Deborah twitching all over & Louisa crying & headache & Emma lying awake! most wonderful of all. Now it is just possible that Madam May for she has laboured like a dog & does like a fair tired as she is may come forward & offer to hold it. If so, why she may & I will give what help I can, the same sort of help that other folks give, but I have a feeling that with so little help & sense as there is, no harm, it would be better to wait till there was more help on the ground before we had another. However write immediately & express your minds for it would be necessary by the May Convention to have our line of action resolved upon. Maria might sound Jane Wigham, as she is the person that first suggested having one. But of 38 of our Com next year 6 will be in Europe. 12 will be living in the country with no town houses. 11 live in Boston, 3 of whom have no houses, & Miss Willey, Miss Tufts, Mrs Hale – Mrs Garrison & Mrs Philips can of course do nothing – that leaves Mrs May, Misses Sargents and Mrs Palmer (who was Harriet Jackson, who was married during the Fair in N. Y. at I. Hopper's house, Palmer being his grandson) the only people who really have a house in town or can do any thing. I wish to say that Catherine & Henrietta have done more for us than any one can ask or even think. They have stood by us in sickness & in health & done & struggled that we should have every thing easy, have kept a fire in our chamber been willing to sit up for us & have all the little fuss & inconvenience of a Fair. No words can tell their kindness & equanimity. But I really feel unwilling at Catherine's time of life that there should be such a clamjamfrey in the house. However think over all these things & see what had best be done. I hope Warren has arrived at N. Y. or I see the Europa is in

~~Le~~ expects [illegible] ~~the~~ [illegible] to you all [illegible]

Children

Do as [illegible] matter [illegible] of any state means. She says the Emma had a good deal of friendly talk with Clarke while he was laying. All I mean was that nothing was [illegible] [illegible] I care not it, I felt so put out by the whole [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] day of the year; but I must send this off before I [illegible]

I suppose we [illegible] will take charge of the [illegible] & suppose &

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